



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA HONORS FATHER AND SON HEROES

(PARMA) – Parma City Council honored a father and son who saved their neighbor's life the day after Christmas. A congratulatory Proclamation and keys to the city were presented to John J. Dynia, Sr. and John J. Dynia, Jr. during council's Tuesday night meeting.

"This is a miraculous and inspiring story," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "The least we could do is say 'thanks' to some real heroes in our own community."

The father and son ran to the aid of their neighbor, Roger Belfi, who had become trapped underneath his pick-up truck. Police say Belfi had been changing the oil in his truck when the jack apparently slipped. The truck fell on Belfi, crushing his chest.

"I remember taking my last breath," said Belfi. "I thought I was gone. The only reason I'm alive today is because Mary was there, John and his son were there and the police and firemen were there. If one of those things would have been missing, I'd be dead."

The lifesavers arrived seconds after Belfi's wife, Mary, screamed for help. The Proclamation states: John (Sr.) quickly took charge of the situation and jacked-up the pick-up and pulled out Roger. Roger was blue. With the weight of the truck off his chest, his color improved.

Belfi was stabilized at the scene by Parma Police officers and Firefighter Paramedics. He was rushed to MetroHealth Medical Center where he was treated for burns, no broken bones. His stay in the hospital lasted only nine hours.

"We will be forever thankful to the Dynia family and Parma police and firemen," said Mary Belfi. "What can you possibly say to people who were there by our side when my husband's life was hanging in the balance? This was truly a miracle."

As for the lifesavers, John, Sr. and John, Jr. downplayed the title of hero, claiming they did what they could – what anyone else would have done for their neighbor.

"We just heard Mary and ran to help Roger as fast as we could," said John Dynia, Sr. "This is what you do when you're called-on to help somebody – anybody."

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“We did the exact same thing that anyone would have done for us,” said John Dynia, Jr. “We’re not heroes. We heard it, saw it and acted. “Heck,” he said laughing, “I didn’t even have my pants on when I ran out the door.”

Roger Belfi says he finished changing the oil in the truck the day following the accident – this time using four jacks instead of one to hold-up the vehicle.

“I wasn’t trying to prove anything to anybody,” Belfi said. “I felt the jacks would help protect me, and so would my new guardian angels here. I’ve got so many guardian angels and heroes I can’t keep track. I’m a very lucky guy.”

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